

It is with a heavy heart that I have listened to my constituents retell the tragic account of how family, friends, and sometimes they themselves were driven from their homeland and still yearn for peace and resolution after almost half a century of unjustified occupation. The Cypriot people's desire is for the same inalienable right to national sovereignty that the United States has championed at home and abroad. Recognizing this inescapable truth, I have been proud to cosponsor legislation urging Turkey to return confiscated churches and property, affirming our nation's commitment to the reunification of Cyprus, and strengthening our bilateral relationship with Greece. I call on all of my colleagues to support these efforts on behalf of our trusted ally as they work to overcome the political, cultural, and economic challenges wrought by four decades of illegal occupation.

Furthermore, the assault on Greek Orthodox culture and religious heritage is unfortunately not limited to Cyprus' struggle, as recent efforts by Islamist forces to convert the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul—one of the most sacred Greek Orthodox basilicas—into a mosque, make all too clear. Mr. Speaker, any efforts to stifle and diminish Orthodox Christian heritage in the region is the type of tyranny and intolerance that must be denounced by all free people across the globe.

I conclude Mr. Speaker, that if the United States is to truly honor its reputation as the world's brightest beacon of freedom and democracy, then our support for Cyprus must be clear and unwavering. I hope that on this somber occasion, we may unite in solidarity with our Cypriot allies, reassure them of our nation's ardent support, and look forward to replacing an annual observation of continued occupation with a joyous celebration of a reunified Cyprus.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 25, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In 1974, Congress—with bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon—established LSC to be a major source of funding for civil legal aid in this country. LSC is a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and U.S. territory.

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs. These low-income Americans are women seeking protection from domestic violence, mothers trying to obtain child support or navigate custody hearings, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer

scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

In my district, LSC provides funding to Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, an organization which provided legal aid to over 4,600 clients last year and looks to increase that number this year. But despite that enormous contribution to our society and an increasing demand for their services, Neighborhood Services of Los Angeles County, and many of its sister institutions across the country, have seen their LSC funding diminish in recent years.

Given the vital role played by LSC-funded attorneys, we need to do better than turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek assistance because of lack of LSC program resources. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel, as well as the thousands of attorneys who contribute pro bono services to clients in need. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to reunification efforts in Cyprus. July 20th marked the 40th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus which tore the island in two. It is time to end this forcible division and ensure the rights of all Cypriots.

In the summer of 1974, Turkish armed forces invaded Cyprus and captured portions of the northern region of the island. Nearly a quarter of the captured residents were expelled from the island, of which about 80 percent were Greek Cypriots. The invasion concluded with the installation of the UN-monitored buffer zone which still divides Cyprus today. It is crucial that we find a solution that allows Greek and Turkish Cypriots to prosper together.

Cyprus is an anchor for U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and has been a reliable partner in combating terrorism and threats to international peace. Cyprus has played a critical role in the removal of chemical weapons from Syria. At a time when the stability of the wider Middle East has become increasingly fragile, it is important to ensure the security of a reliable ally in the region.

The Cypriot people deserve a free republic, one without foreign troops patrolling their neighborhoods and one where exiled Cypriots have the right to return to their homes. In early 2013, the President of Cyprus outlined several measures that, if adopted, could significantly contribute to a favorable atmosphere for reunification negotiations. I am reassured by the efforts made by the Cypriot government; however, as a nation who highly values its rela-

tionships with our allies, the United States should support initiatives to end the 40 year division of Cyprus. A united Cyprus is the best solution to respect the sovereignty of the Mediterranean nation as well as the rich history of its people.

RECOGNIZING 40 YEARS SINCE THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the 40th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus and to call for a reunited and independent Cyprus. The Turkish invasion in 1974 affected hundreds of thousands of Greek Cypriots and its impact continues to be felt today as Cyprus is still one of the most highly militarized areas in the world. Furthermore Greek Cypriots are still being denied human rights. They have been denied their right to return to their homes, their properties have been sold or confiscated, and their right to religious freedom has been restricted.

The United States has strongly encouraged continuing formal negotiations between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish communities. It is important that we continue to support Cyprus as it is an ally and strategic partner in combatting terrorism. Cyprus has also helped in the promotion of security and stability in the eastern Mediterranean. On the 40th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus, the United States is reminded that we should strive to end this injustice and continue to support the long overdue reunification and independence of Cyprus.

REMEMBERING TRUMBULL COUNTY COMMISSIONER PAUL HELTZEL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of my dear friend, Trumbull County, Ohio, Commissioner Paul Heltzel, 69, who passed away peacefully on the morning of Monday, June 30, 2014 at his home in the company of family after a valiant and brief fight with cancer.

Paul was a deeply thoughtful, concerned, and dedicated public servant. He was one of Trumbull County's greatest assets, previously serving in various roles in the community throughout his professional career before joining the Trumbull County Board of Commissioners in 2005. Paul was a proud advocate of our veterans and worked hard to secure the Samuel E. Lanza Veterans Resource Center for our local veterans. He was the recipient of the Regional Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Political Achievement Award given to the members of the Trumbull County Board of Commissioners for outstanding political achievement. Paul was a lively and active man who enjoyed the outdoors, antique motor cars, and spending time with his family.